

April 2. 1771

THEATRE ROYAL

Edinburgh

PROGRAMME.

NO. 66. PRICE ONE PENNY.

LESSEE

MR J. B. HOWARD

Engagement for Positively 12 Nights only
Of the Distinguished Actor and Author, Mr H. J.

BYRON

Who, after an absence of Seven Years, will make his First Appearance
in Edinburgh in his Favourite Character of

SIR SIMON SIMPLE

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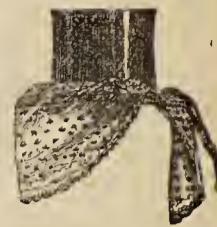
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REFRESHMENTS may be obtained

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1877

AND FOLLOWING EVENINGS

Mr BERNARD having made Special Arrangements with the Author, the Performances will commence punctually at 7.30 with DION BOUCICAULT'S Drama, in One Act, entitled

KERRY OR NIGHT AND MORNING.

NOTE.—As the Interest of this Play commences with the Rise of the Curtain, the Audience are respectfully requested to be in their Places in good time.

Gerald Desmond, a Young Officer, supposed to be lost in the Troopship "Liverpool,"	...	...	Mr EDWARD COMPTON
Blanche, his Wife,	...	...	Miss MAUDE BRENNAN
Kate, his Sister,	...	...	Miss LOUISA GOURLAY
Captain Coldham, an Officer,	...	...	Mr J. B. GORDON
Dr Mellish, a Physician,	...	...	Mr HALDANE CRICHTON
Kerry, a Servant in the family of Gerald Desmond,	Mr CHARLES GROVES

SCENE—

A VILLA IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

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EDINBURGH.



A FEW WORDS

(By C. BERNARD) ABOUT

M R H. J. BYRON,

AUTHOR AND COMEDIAN.

Author of Our Boys—Married in Haste—Tottles—Cyril's Success—Blow for Blow—Dearer than Life—Uncle Dick's Darling—Old Soldiers—Partners for Life—Time's Triumph—Not such a Fool as he Looks—The Prompter's Box, &c., &c.

THE name of Mr H. J. BYRON is so widely known as that of one of the most popular authors of the age, that Mr Bernard (under whose direction Mr BYRON's present tour is undertaken) feels there is little necessity to remind the public of the distinguished writer and eccentric comedian's many claims upon their favours. A few remarks regarding Mr BYRON's career, culled from the pages of "Men of the Time" and other publications, may, however, not be out of place.

Mr BYRON was born in Manchester, and is the son of a gentleman holding a Consular appointment abroad. His grandfather, the rector of Muston, was first cousin to the poet, whose sister—"Augusta, my sweet sister"—to whom the poet alludes so affectionately, procured for the subject of our sketch a cadetship in the Royal Navy. But Mr BYRON "never was meant for the sea," and after leaving St Peter's College, Belgravia (of which institution he was unanimously elected an Honorary Fellow some years ago), he studied medicine with his maternal grandfather, a physician, in Derbyshire. But eventually Mr BYRON gave up all notion of being a doctor, and entered at the Middle Temple, with the view to practising at the Bar. Chance, however, threw him into a fresh channel, and the great success of his first two or three dramatic productions determined him to devote himself to the stage. He had already, as a *very* young man, had much experience as an actor in many provincial theatres, and this knowledge greatly assisted him as an author.

It would be almost impossible to enumerate the very many dramatic works of Mr BYRON, who, save in the case of a couple of librettos, has never borrowed from any foreign source. Amongst his original comedies may be enumerated—"Cyril's Success"—"Married in Haste"—"The Prompter's Box"—"War to the Knife"—"A Hundred Thousand Pounds"—"Old Soldiers"—"Old Sailors"—"Partners for Life"—"Not such a Fool as he Looks"—"Fine Feathers"—"Sour Grapes"—"Weak Woman"—"An English Gentleman"—"An American Lady"—"Time's Triumph"—"Tottles," and the immortal "Our Boys," which has proved to be incontestably the most successful play ever produced.

Nearly all of his pieces have been revived again and again, and invariably with the greatest success. During the last season, in London, no less than eight old pieces from his pen have been reproduced (in some cases for the fourth or fifth time) to enthusiastic audiences.

As a creator of Sir Simon Simple in his own popular play "Not such a Fool as he Looks," Mr BYRON was at once welcomed by the critics and the public as an actor of remarkable originality; and his Fitzaltamont, the blighted tragedian in the "Prompter's Box"—a character totally unlike the preceding one—set at rest any doubts as to his versatility. Since then he has frequently appeared as a star at the leading theatres, one of his most recent successes being the phlegmatic Gibson Greene in "Married in Haste," a character he sustained during the lengthened run of that comedy at the Haymarket and Charing Cross.

Finally, to quote an eminent critic's remark on the popular author-actor:—

"Last, though not least, amongst his many claims upon the consideration and gratitude of the public, comes the pleasant fact that, with numerous temptations in an opposite direction, and with opportunities unprecedented, he has never written a line to call forth a blush on the face of the most sensitive spectator."

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